

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, MILI, GL, DA
SUBJ: GREENLAND-MAYOR'S COMMENTS ON MILITARY DRAW FIRE;
NEW RADICAL MOVEMENT APPEARS

SUMMARY: TWO RECENT EVENTS HAVING TO DO WITH GREENLAND
COULD EVENTUALLY ATTRACT INTEREST IN THE US. THE
FIRST WAS A STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR OF A GREENLAND
TOWN DENOUNCING THE STATIONING OF MILITARY FORCES
IN GREENLAND AND THE REBUTTAL HIS COMMENTS DREW.
THE SECOND WAS THE FORMATION OF A NEW REVOLUTIONARY
MARXIST-LENINIST POLITICAL MOVEMENT ON GREENLAND.
BOTH ARE DESCRIBED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. JORGEN HERTLING, CHAIRMAN IN DENMARK OF THE
GREENLAND ATASSUT MOVEMENT (WHICH ADVOCATES CONTINUED
CLOSE TIES BETWEEN DENMARK AND GREENLAND), TOLD
BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE)
DEC 19, 1977, THAT A MILITARY VACUUM WOULD BE
DANGEROUS FOR GREENLAND. HERTLING MADE THIS OBSERVA-
TION IN RESPONSE TO DEMARKS REPORTEDLY MADE BY MAYOR
HENRIK KUND OF JULIANEHOB, A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE
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COMMITTEE OF THE GREENLAND SUJUMUT PARTY.

2. LUND APPARENTLY TOLD A REPORTER THAT HE,
PERSONALLY, DID NOT LIKE THE MILITARY. HE ADDED:
"IF WE HAVE MILITARY FORCES STATIONED ON GREENLAND
WE PROVOKE FOREIGN POWERS. IF NONE ARE STATIONED
THERE, THERE WILL BE NO PROVOCATION AND THEY WILL

LEAVE US IN PEACE."

3. HERTLING REBUTTED LUND POINTING OUT THAT BECAUSE OF ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO CREATE A MILITARY VACUUM IN GREENLAND. LUND'S ARGUMENTATION WAS ALSO UNREASONABLE, HERTLING SAID, IN SO MUCH AS DENMARK'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN GREENLAND IN THE 30 YEARS SINCE THE END OF THE WAR HAD PROVIDED SECURITY. THE AMERICANS HAD NOT BEEN PROVOCATIVE AND HAD IN FACT GIVEN THE GREENLANDERS NO REASON TO COMPLAIN. ON THE CONTRARY, THE AMERICAN FORCES HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO THE GREENLANDERS DURING THE YEARS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, BY CONDUCTING SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS FOR PERSONS LOST AT SEA.

4. LUND'S COMMENTS WERE INSPIRED TO A LARGE DEGREE BY LEFTIST THINKERS IN DENMARK, HERTLING ASSERTED. FURTHERMORE, EVEN AFTER HOME RULE IS INTRODUCED, RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN POLICY AND QUESTIONS SUCH AS THIS ONE WILL REMAIN WITH THE DANISH STATE. IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE WHY THIS ISSUE WAS RAISED, HERTLING CONCLUDED, BUT IT WILL CERTAINLY NOT BENEFIT THE GREENLANDERS.

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5. COMMENT: SUJUMUT, THE PARTY TO WHICH LUND BELONGS, LIKE ATUSSUT SUPPORTS A CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GREENLAND AND DENMARK. BUT IT WOULD PREFER GREATER INDEPENDENCE FOR THE GREENLANDERS THAN ATASSUT DESIRES. THE PARTY HAS NOT, AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, FORMALLY ADOPTED A POSITION OPPOSED TO THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN GREENLAND. LUND MAY HAVE VOICED AN UNCONSIDERED PERSONAL VIEW AND NOT A PARTY ONE. (WE WILL LOOK INTO THIS FURTHER WHEN OUR GREENLAND CONTACTS RETURN TO DENMARK AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.) END COMMENT

6. IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE NOW ALSO TO REPORT A RECENT EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN GREENLAND CALLED INUIT ATAQATIGIIT. IT DEVELOPED OUT OF THE SO-CALLED 1976 AND 1977 AUSSIVIK YOUTH CAMPS AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO OPPOSE AN AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE ON GREENLAND. IF IT EVER GETS OFF THE GROUND. THE GROUP DEFINES ITSELF AS MARXIST-LENINIST AND MAINTAINS THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF THE GREENLAND SOCIETY IT ADVOCATES IS THROUGH REVOLUTION.

THE NEW MOVEMENT IS COMPOSED MAINLY OF YOUNG GREENLANDERS EDUCATED IN THE DANISH SCHOOL SYSTEM WHO, IT IS SAID, HAVE BECOME ALIENATED FROM BOTH DANISH AND GREENLAND SOCIETY. THE TWO LEADERS OF THE MOVEMENT ARE JENS GEISLER, A TEACHER, AND ARKALUG LYNGE, A SOCIAL WORKER.

7. KNUD HERTLING, A BROTHER OF JORGEN AND A FORMER MINISTER FOR GREENLAND IN THE DANISH GOVT, STATES THAT THE NEW GROUP HAS BEEN INSPIRED BY LEFTIST THINKERS IN DENMARK. HIMSELF A GREENLANDER, KNUD HERTLING SAYS THAT THE YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE NEW MOVEMENT HAVE NO BASE IN GREENLANDIC SOCIETY. SIMILARLY, LARS EMIL JOHANSEN, A LEADER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUJUMUT AND A GREENLAND MEMBER OF THE FOLKETING, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE NEW MOVEMENT IS OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE AND HAS A MEMBERSHIP MADE UP OF A FEW YOUNG "KIDS".
DEAN

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